



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 399**

February Session, 2010

Substitute Senate Bill No. 363

*Senate, April 8, 2010*

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. SLOSSBERG of the 14th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING POLLING PLACES FOR PRIMARIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-438 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 In each municipality or voting district, the polling place or places  
4 for [primaries] a primary held under sections 9-382 to 9-450, inclusive,  
5 as amended by this act, shall be [the same as those used for the election  
6 to be held] designated by the registrars of voters of such municipality  
7 or voting district, at least ninety days prior to the primary. At least  
8 thirty days prior to a primary, the registrars of voters shall send  
9 notification of the polling place for the primary, by mail, to each elector  
10 whose polling place for the primary will be different than the elector's  
11 polling place for the election. If a municipality's registrars of voters  
12 cannot agree upon a polling place or places for a primary, the polling  
13 place or places shall be the same as those used for the election to be  
14 held. When unaffiliated electors are authorized under section 9-431 to

15 vote in the primary of either of two parties, both parties shall hold  
16 their primaries in the same room of each such polling place. On the  
17 day of the primary, the polls shall remain open for voting from six  
18 o'clock a.m. until eight o'clock p.m.

19 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 9-436 of the general statutes is  
20 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
21 *passage*):

22 (d) The registrar shall appoint from among the enrolled party  
23 members in the municipality or political subdivision holding the  
24 primary, as the case may be, to serve in each polling place, the primary  
25 polling place officials, who shall consist of one moderator, two  
26 checkers, not more than two challengers if he deems it necessary, and  
27 at least one and not more than two voting machine tenders for each  
28 machine in use at such primary and, in towns with two or more voting  
29 districts at least one and not more than two assistant registrars,  
30 provided (1) in the case of a political subdivision holding a primary, if  
31 no enrolled party member who resides in the political subdivision and  
32 who is a certified moderator consents to serve as a moderator, the  
33 registrar may appoint any enrolled party member who resides in the  
34 municipality and is a certified moderator to be moderator, (2) in the  
35 case of either a municipality or a political subdivision holding a  
36 primary, if no enrolled party member can be found or no such person  
37 consents to serve as a moderator, the registrar may appoint any elector  
38 who resides in the municipality and is a certified moderator to be  
39 moderator, (3) in the case of a political subdivision holding a primary,  
40 if an insufficient number of enrolled party members who reside in the  
41 political subdivision consent to serve as checkers, challengers, voting  
42 machine tenders or assistant registrars, the registrar may appoint any  
43 enrolled party member who resides in the municipality to be a checker,  
44 challenger, voting machine tender or assistant registrar, [and] (4) in the  
45 case of either a municipality or a political subdivision holding a  
46 primary, if a sufficient number of enrolled party members cannot be  
47 found or do not consent to serve in a position described in subdivision  
48 (3) of this subsection, the registrar may appoint any elector who

49 resides in the municipality to any such position, and (5) in the case of  
50 either a municipality or a political subdivision holding more than one  
51 primary on the same day for different political parties, one certified  
52 moderator may serve as moderator for both primaries, if the registrars  
53 of voters so agree. If unaffiliated electors are authorized under section  
54 9-431 to vote for some but not all of the offices to be contested at the  
55 primary, the registrar shall appoint two additional checkers to check  
56 the list of unaffiliated electors who are authorized to vote on the  
57 separate machines. If unaffiliated electors are authorized under section  
58 9-431 to vote in the primary of either of two parties in the same polling  
59 place, whether for some or for all offices to be contested at the primary,  
60 each such registrar shall appoint two additional checkers to check the  
61 list of unaffiliated electors who are authorized to vote in either such  
62 primary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-438
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	9-436(d)

**GAE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 11 \$	FY 12 \$
Various Municipalities	Potential Net Savings	Less than 25,000 per municipality	Less than 25,000 per municipality

**Explanation**

The bill is anticipated to yield a net savings to municipalities by allowing registrars of voters to reduce the number of polling places for primaries. Savings include: 1) possible rental of polling locations, 2) number of and costs for poll workers, and 3) transportation of voting equipment. In total, these savings could range from \$500-\$1,000 per polling location. The net savings for each municipality would vary dependent on the municipality's population size and the reduction in the number of polling locations.

These savings would be reduced by the bill's requirement that the registrars of voters must notify all affected electors by mail.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 363*****AN ACT CONCERNING POLLING PLACES FOR PRIMARIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows registrars of voters to jointly designate the number and location of polling places for primaries in their municipality or district. Under current law, the polling places must be the same as for the corresponding election. The bill covers primaries for municipal and state elections and includes candidates for municipal, district, state, and federal office.

By law, each registrar is solely responsible for appointing polling place officials for his or her own party's primary, including a moderator. The bill gives registrars the option to appoint a single certified moderator per polling place when more than one political party will hold a primary on the same day, if they both agree to the designation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**POLLING PLACES**

The bill requires registrars of voters to designate the polling place or places at least 90 days before a primary, though the deadline for filing candidate endorsements and primary petitions (determining the need for a primary) is not until the 63<sup>rd</sup> day before a primary. This requirement applies regardless of whether the number or location of polling places will differ from their number or location in the corresponding election. At least 30 days before the primary, the registrars must notify by mail each elector whose polling place will differ from the one he or she will use in the corresponding election. The polling place or places for a primary must remain the same as for the corresponding election if the registrars cannot agree on a change to

the number or location.

For an election, the legislative body in a town not divided into voting districts designates the polling place. In towns divided into voting districts, registrars of voters designate the polling places used in an election unless they fail to agree, in which case the town's legislative body determines the locations.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15      Nay 0      (03/22/2010)